

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A hand-held portable container (1) comprising a housing (3, 131) having one or more shells (5, 101) releasably mounted thereon, the or each shell (5, 101) having an opening for receiving excreta and having an impaling means including a plurality of tines (8) disposed within the shell (8) for impaling excreta characterised in that the housing (3, 131) has an aerosol cartridge (4, 136) including a freezing component mounted thereon, the or each shell having an aperture for receiving aerosol from the aerosol cartridge.

2. (original) A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the tines (8) are provided by teeth (105) tapered so that the edges of the teeth (105) closest to the opening of the shell (5, 101) are thin enough to allow at least partial penetration of excreta received into the opening.

3. (original) A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the teeth (105) extend radially inwardly from the shell (5, 101).

4. (previously presented) A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the teeth (105) are symmetrically disposed about the central axis of the shell (5, 101).

5. (previously presented) A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the shells (5, 101) are nestable with one another.

6. (previously presented) A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 1, wherein one or more shells (5, 101) are held on one end of the housing (3, 131) by a collet (141).

7. (previously presented) A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the shells (5, 101) are held in place by friction.

8. (currently amended) A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the ~~shell~~ shells (5, 101) have a flared open end.

9. (previously presented) A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the housing (3, 131) comprises two identical semi-cylindrical plastics mouldings (133).

10. (previously presented) A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a second end of the housing accommodates means for actuating the aerosol cartridge (4, 136) so that a predetermined portion of aerosol is dispensed.

11. (original) A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the actuating means comprises a button (150) housed in the second end of the housing and being depressible so as to dispense aerosol from the aerosol cartridge (4, 136).

12. (currently amended) A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the button (150) is normally urged out of the housing (3, 131) by a biasing means on a ~~the~~ nozzle of the aerosol cartridge (4, 136).

13. (previously presented) A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the travel of the button (150) is selected to accommodate a wide range of aerosol cartridges (4, 136).

Claim 14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim [[14]] 1, wherein the aperture (104) is disposed centrally of the shell (5, 101) and is substantially aligned with a dispensing nozzle in use.

16. (original) A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the impaling means is removably mounted on the shell.

17. (original) A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the impaling means comprises a base located outside the shell and the plurality of tines outstanding therefrom, extending through and disposed within the shell, the shell having a plurality of apertures aligned with the tines for slidable engagement therewith.

18. (original) A method of collecting animal excreta comprising the steps of contacting the excreta with a solid body, the method being characterised by dispensing aerosol including a freezing component around the excreta and solid body so as to form a bond between the excreta and the solid body and subsequently lifting the solid body so as to remove the excreta from the surface it was deposited on.

Claims 19-21 (canceled).